

Part 1 – Agency Profile

Agency Overview

Idaho's seven Public Health Districts were established in 1970 under Chapter 4, Title 39, Idaho Code. They were created to insure essential public health services are made available to protect the health of all citizens of the State—no matter how large their county population. The intent of the legislature in creating the seven Public Health Districts was for public health services to be locally controlled and governed. Each of the Public Health Districts is governed by a local Board of Health appointed by the county commissioners from that district. Each Board of Health defines the public health services to be offered in its district based on the particular needs of the local populations served.

The districts are not state agencies nor part of any state department; they are recognized much the same as other single purpose districts, and are accountable to their local Boards of Health. The law stipulates that Public Health Districts provide the basic services of public health education, physical health, environmental health and health administration. However, the law does not restrict the districts solely to these categories.

While Idaho's Public Health Districts are locally based, they share a common vision and mission. Their vision is ***"Healthy People in Healthy Communities."***

The Public Health Districts' mission is to:

- **Prevent** disease, disability, and premature death,
- **Promote** healthy lifestyles, and
- **Protect** the health and quality of the environment.

Although services vary depending on local need, all seven Public Health Districts provide the essential services that assure healthy communities. These may include:

- Monitoring health status and understanding health issues
- Protecting people from health problems and health hazards
- Giving people information they need to make healthy choices
- Engaging the community to identify and solve health problems
- Developing public health policies and plans
- Enforcing public health laws and regulations
- Helping people receive health services
- Maintaining a competent public health workforce
- Evaluating and improving programs and interventions
- Contributing to the evidence based practice of public health

The work of the Public Health Districts touches everyone. They strive to prevent diseases and help keep the food you eat and the water you drink safe. Public health makes a difference every day.

Idaho is fortunate to have a strong system of Public Health Districts – one that is the envy of many other states. The districts play a critical role in improving and maintaining the health of Idaho citizens.

Core Functions/Idaho Code

As outlined in Idaho Code 39-409, the Public Health Districts provide the basic health services of public health education, physical health, environmental health, and public health administration, but this listing shall not be construed to restrict the service programs of the district health department solely to these categories.

While the services provided by Idaho's Public Health Districts are not exactly the same in each district, they generally include:

Epidemiology/Communicable Disease Control

Epidemiology is one of the core functions of public health. The Public Health Districts work to investigate, report, prevent, and control communicable diseases by:

- Reporting on over 70 reportable diseases and conditions (IDAPA 16.02.10)
- Investigating and managing outbreaks of communicable diseases (e.g., Hepatitis A, Salmonella, Pertussis, Tuberculosis, West Nile Virus, etc.)
- Utilizing the National Electronic Disease Surveillance Systems (NEDSS) that provides a direct link to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Maintaining and utilizing the Health Alert Network (HAN) to rapidly communicate with state and local partners
- Working in partnership with medical facilities and infection control practitioners

Health Education

Prevention is the key to success in public health. Public Health Districts focus on promoting healthy lifestyles through educational programs. They work closely with local coalitions and community partners to provide the following educational programs:

- Asthma Prevention and Control
- Comprehensive Cancer Control
- Diabetes Prevention and Control
- Fall Prevention for Seniors
- Oral Health
- Physical Activity and Nutrition
- Tobacco Cessation
- Tobacco Prevention and Control

Physical Health

Public health strives to maintain the health of families and the community through health district programs and referrals to community partners. Services and/or programs offered include, are but not limited to:

- Child and Adult Immunizations
- Community and Child Health Nursing
- HIV/AIDS Testing and Case Management
- Infant Toddler Program
- Reproductive Health
- School Health
- Sexually Transmitted Disease Testing and Treatment
- Women's Health Check
- Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC)

Environmental Health

Environmental Health recognizes the connection between human health and the health of our environment. Public Health Districts work to prevent disease and injury through control and protection of environmental factors such as water, air, and food by:

- Permitting and inspecting food establishments
- Monitoring Public Water Systems
- Permitting and inspecting subsurface sewage disposal systems
- Approving and inspecting solid waste facilities
- Inspecting child care facilities and providing education for child care providers
- Reviewing proposed subdivision plats for land development and conducting site evaluations

Health Preparedness

Public Health Districts are working to improve their ability to respond to all types of hazards, ranging from natural disasters, to infectious disease outbreaks, to acts of terrorism by:

- Exercising all-hazard response plans that have been developed by the health districts
- Planning for and management of the Strategic National Stockpile
- Partnering with public health professionals to ensure they are educated about and prepared for such events
- Working with community partners to develop plans and exercise for surge capacity events

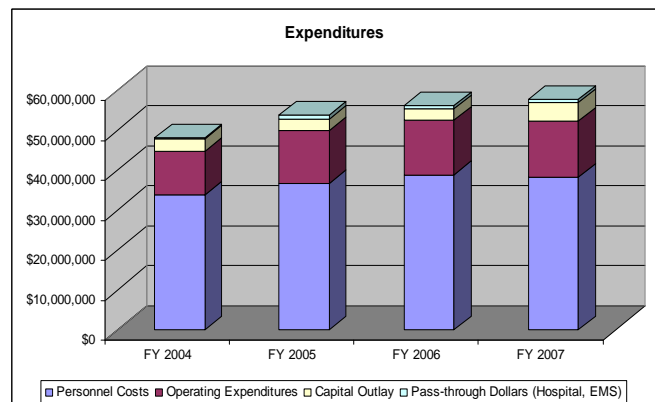
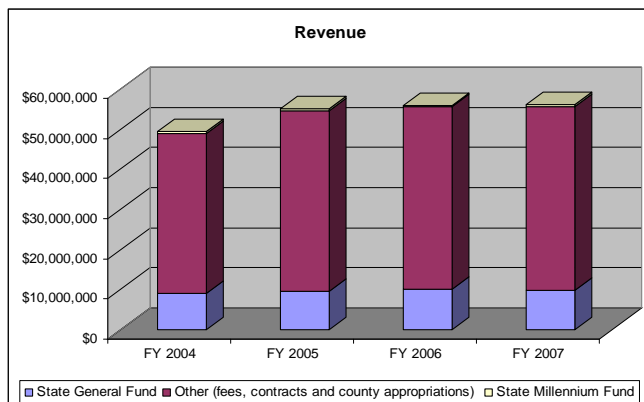
Revenue and Expenditures

The Public Health Districts receive income from four funding sources. Approximately 33% of their income comes from the counties, the State General Fund, and the State Millennium Fund combined. They earn about 27% in fees and another 40% from service contracts. They are accountable to the public they serve, and work hard to use these funds efficiently.

Whereas the Public Health Districts are not state agencies, their entire budget is therefore not set by the Idaho Legislature. The portion of funding that is requested by the Public Health Districts from the State's General and Millennium Funds are the only portion of their budget that is approved by the Idaho Legislature.

The counties that make up each Public Health District are responsible for setting and approving the district's overall budget.

Revenue	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
State General Fund	\$9,166,300	\$9,557,600	10,047,900	9,809,700
Other (fees, contracts and county appropriations)	\$39,577,000	\$45,109,600	45,584,800	45,730,100
State Millennium Fund	\$514,100	\$497,300	336,000	495,600
Total	\$49,257,400	\$55,164,500	55,968,700	56,035,400
Expenditure	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Personnel Costs	\$33,745,200	\$36,543,900	38,837,000	38,120,700
Operating Expenditures	\$10,966,300	\$13,256,500	13,594,100	14,104,400
Capital Outlay	\$3,184,800	\$2,974,500	2,939,700	4,759,800
Pass-through Dollars (Hospital, EMS)	\$201,500	\$1,053,800	746,500	691,000
Total	\$48,097,800	\$53,828,700	56,117,300	57,675,900



Profile of Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided

Cases Managed/Services Provided	2004	2005	2006	2007	Benchmark
1. # Communicable Disease Reports & Investigations			3,596	6,988	N/A
2. # Preparedness Efforts			*	1,063	350
3. # Health Education Classes			13,162	9,327	10,000
4. # Environmental Health Inspections			15,663	18,271	17,600
5. # Child Care Inspections			3,625	3,973	3,500
6. # Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Clients			70,546	70,625	70,000
7. # Family Planning Clients Served			30,669	33,453	25,000
8. # Individuals Receiving Smoking Cessation			1,457	2,227	1,750
9. # Children Receiving Fluoride Mouth Rinse			34,974	34,145	30,000
10. # Adult and Child Vaccines Given**			Adult 69,793	Adult 63,160	Adult 70,000
			Children 83,972	Children 87,790	Children 98,000

*This indicator was added in FY 2007.

**Data from District 3 is not included in the numbers reported. Data was unavailable at the time of submission.

Performance Highlights:

- Public Health Districts prevent, minimize, and contain adverse health events and conditions resulting from communicable disease; food, water, and vector borne outbreaks; and chronic diseases. They coordinate with other agencies that investigate and respond to health problems or environmental health hazards. In FY2006, only the number of a few select diseases (Salmonella, Hepatitis A, Chlamydia, Giardiasis, Campylobacter, West Nile Virus, and Tuberculosis) was reported in the Public Health Districts' Strategic Plan and Agency Profile. However, for FY2007, the total number of all reportable diseases is being reported.
- Public Health Districts lead public health emergency planning, exercises, and response activities in their communities in accordance with the National Incident Management System, and coordinate with other local, state and federal agencies. They participate in planning, exercises, and response activities for public health emergencies and all other all-hazards emergencies in the community that have public health implications.
- Public Health Districts exchange information and data with individuals, community groups, agencies, and the general public about physical, behavioral, environmental, and other issues affecting the public's health. They provide targeted, culturally appropriate information to help individuals understand what decisions they can make to be healthy.
- Public Health Districts monitor the compliance of regulated organizations, entities, and individuals. They educate individuals and organizations on the meaning, purpose, and benefit of public health laws, regulations, and ordinances as well as how to comply.
- Public Health Districts conduct inspections of Child Care facilities in order to help protect the children living in Idaho.
- Public Health Districts provide low income pregnant women, infants, and children with food vouchers, nutritional education, and referrals to other needed services.
- Public Health Districts support and implement strategies to increase access to care and establish systems of personal health services. They provide reproductive health services at district clinic sites and link individuals to available, accessible personal health care providers.

8. Public Health Districts link teens, pregnant women, and adults to smoking cessation services with partners in their communities or through cessation clinics at the Public Health District clinic sites.
9. Public Health Districts oversee the fluoride mouth rinse program in school districts without adequate fluoridation. This preventive program strengthens the teeth of children for healthier teeth as adults.
10. Public Health Districts connect adults and children with disease-preventing vaccines, either through clinics at the health district sites or through private health care providers.

Part II – Performance Measures

Performance Measures	2003	2004	2005	2006	Benchmark
1. Percent of adults who smoke ¹	18.9%	17.4%	17.9%	16.8% ³	< 21.6 % National % rate
2. Percent of adults diagnosed with diabetes ¹	6.3%	6.2%	6.8%	6.8% ³	< 7% National % rate
3. Percent of adults who are overweight and/or obese ¹	59.3%	58.2%	61.4%	59.7% ³	< 40% National % rate
4. Percent of adults diagnosed and still had asthma ¹	8.0%	7.9%	7.3%	9.2% ³	5.9% -10.7% National % rate
5. Teenage pregnancy rates (15-19 year olds) ²	45.8	45.2	44.7	Not available	43/1,000

¹ Data obtained from: *Idaho Behavioral Risk Factors*, October 2006 (Results from the 2005 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System-BRFSS)

² Data obtained from: *2005 Idaho Vital Statistics*; Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Bureau of Health Policy and Vital Statistics

³ Data obtained from: *Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Health in Idaho: A State Profile*, IDHW July 2007

The Public Health Districts monitor many health outcomes of Idahoans, tracking the outcomes of Idaho's population in comparison to the national data for the population. Because the data is collected from several sources, the timeframe for reporting the data is usually off by at least an entire year.

The Tobacco Prevention and Control (TPC) Program works to create a state free from tobacco-related deaths and diseases. The TPC program goals are to: prevent initiation of tobacco use by youth; promote tobacco cessation among users; eliminate exposure to secondhand smoke; and identify and eliminate tobacco-related disparities. Through a targeted, multi-faceted approach, the TPC program has helped reduce smoking in Idaho. Idaho ranks third in the nation for lowest percentage of adults who smoked in 2004.

Obese (Body Mass Index or BMI \geq 30) adults reported diabetes nearly six times as often as those who were not overweight. Those who do not engage in leisure time activity reported diabetes at almost twice the rate of those who engaged in some leisure time physical activity. Almost six out of every 10 Idaho adults are overweight and/or obese.

The goal of the Immunization Program is to increase immunization rates among children and adults for vaccine-preventable diseases. The program provides information and education resources as well as vaccination clinics.

As you can see, Idahoans are making slow steady progress in health outcomes. We continue to struggle with being overweight and the chronic illnesses associated with being overweight and the lack of physical activity.

For More Information

If you would like more detailed information concerning Idaho's public health districts and the services they provide, you may download a copy of "[Idaho Public Health Districts' Strategic Plan: Fiscal Year 2007 Report](#)" that is available on each health district's website or contact any of the District Directors below.

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Southwest District Health
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